**Communications and Engagement Officer for UCC SU 2021/2022**

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**Manifesto**

**Student renting**

Student renting has become a national problematic issue over recent years and since the development of Covid-19 it has been more apparent. This year in particular I have seen the exploitation of students of renting costs and the attitude of landlords towards students. Cork is a rent pressure zone and is significantly increasing. This year I was involved in my own landlord dispute where i had to involve the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) and engage in paper- based adjudication in order to gain my money back that I had lost. Upon winning my case I identified the areas in need of improvement. I propose to create an online social media page listing supports and services to help with student queries and how they can go about getting money back or any disputes they may be in. It can be a very stressful time and i hope to be approachable to any student that needs help.

**Covid -19 and students**

Covid-19 has shown how little consideration the government, in particular Simon Harris has shown for third level students. In my role I would highlight the difficulties third level students have undergone especially first years as they had a significant transition from secondary education to University.

In regard to Covid-19 and our green campus, there are non-recyclable coffee/tea cups available on campus. In my role I would like to make compostable/recyclable cups available to students and staff. Travel mugs have become non-existent due to Covid-19 measures. Next year we will be more prepared and have these available on campus cafes.

In addition, I would highlight the turmoil students in the medical field went through during Covid-19. It has taken a significant toll on their mental health and I propose that there should be more mental health services available to them such as counselling sessions. I have been made aware of the tight deadlines with a lack of spacing of assignments and placement which medical students are expected to adhere to. I propose to coordinate with the Education Officer to make changes and ensure there are no unnecessary stresses

**Promoting student businesses**

Over my four years in UCC, it has given me fantastic experiences and I have met diverse individuals with brilliant ideas and talents. I believe that students in UCC that run their own business need more exposure, credit and promotion. In my position I propose to establish a Student Union podcast where I would communicate and engage with these students and interview them to create awareness to the UCC student body of more opportunities. I would like to see an opportunity for students to showcase their businesses on campus once a month where we could buy their product/service. I think it is necessary to be able to stock student products on campus shops so they are accessible to students and staff.

**Extra curriculars/ workshops**

I believe that extracurricular modules accessed online such as the 'Bystander Intervention' module gives students fantastic opportunities to excel, up-skill and increase the opportunity to gain more knowledge about contemporary issues. I support the new human trafficking module that will be available in the future. This role would give me the opportunity to ask the student body what extra modules they would like to see and learn about and receive a transferable digital badge upon completion which would increase employ ability.

In addition, I propose video workshops for students. The goal here would be to watch and cook low effort and high nutritious foods and identify locations of shops to purchase low cost foods. Extremely useful for students on a budget and new to living away from home